

From: Dinice, Michael [<mailto:michael.dinice@yale.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:50 PM
To: Scott Swartz
Subject: Madonna Place Fatherhood Program funding

To whom it may concern,

I was very upset and saddened to hear of the recent proposed cuts to the funding for the Fatherhood Initiative that is offered through Madonna Place. I am a recent graduate and proponent of the program. The information and coaching that it provides fathers is an invaluable service and in my opinion should be offered more widely throughout the state. Fathers are just as important in a child's life as their mothers and have historically been overlooked. Since graduating I have applied various aspects of the curriculum in my day to day life. The concepts and tools used to teach the material have improved my relationship with my wife and children immensely. This program is a step in the right direction for Connecticut fathers and **I ask you to reconsider the decision to cut the funding for this much needed and appreciated service.**

Thank you,

Michael B Dinice
Graduate Madonna Place Fatherhood Initiative

FEB 24, 2015

TO SENATOR HARP AND REPRESENTATIVE WALKER,

MY NAME IS DAVID ANDREWS AND I AM THE FATHER OF TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN. MY DAUGHTER ALYSSA IS 3 AND MY SON MATTHEW IS 8. AT THIS TIME, I DON'T SEE EITHER CHILD DO TO D.C.F INVOLVEMENT.

I AM A RECOVERING DRUG ADDICT AND I HAVE BEEN IN TREATMENT FOR 3 MONTHS NOW. I TAKE THIS RECOVERY EXTREMELY SERIOUS BECAUSE DRUGS HAVE ROBBERED ME OF EVERYTHING GOOD AND PURE IN MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY MY KIDS.

SINCE THE DAY I WALKED INTO MADDAWA PLACE AND SPOKE TO DIEGO DURING MY INTAKE, I FELT RELIEVED AND CONFIDENT THAT REUNIFICATION IS POSSIBLE. THIS PROGRAM HAS GOTTEN ME MOTIVATED AND EXCITED ABOUT BEING A GOOD FATHER AND ROLE MODEL FOR MY KIDS.

THE FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM IS THE MAIN REQUIREMENT THAT D.C.F HAS ASKED ME TO PARTICIPATE IN FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO START VISITING MY KIDS. IF NOT FOR THIS PROGRAM, I WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT MY RIGHTS AS A DAD, NOR WOULD I BE ON MY WAY TO INITIATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY KIDS.

PLEASE DON'T CUT FUNDING, MANY DAD'S AND KIDS WILL SUFFER... SINCERELY, D.A.

To Senator Harp and Representative Walker

Gary Zolnowski

I'm here to ask you to reinstate the funding for the John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative for \$500,000. I came to the fatherhood for two reasons, one learn to be a father to my children. I was raised fatherless. How ever I was raised by your five Corrections/Prisons for more than 10 years. That's probably well over or close to 1/2 million dollars. I learned nothing skills that furthered my criminal life and fuelled my Alcoholism. These men who run this place help so not another child goes the road I went down. I'm learning to be a man here! Skills that will raise awareness how men like women in CT need a little help every now again. Please Help!!!

Gary Zolnowski
2-24-15

Testimony of Raul E. Medrano, Father and Participant
Fatherhood Initiative Program
Madonna Place, Inc.
240 Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360

My name is Raul E. Medrano. I have been attending the Madonna Place Fatherhood Program. I've been half of my life without a father figure and even me loving my kids with much love I still feel that I need to learn more on my fatherhood because I never had an example of a father to be their and learn from and ever since I started this program I learned so much on being a father how to deal with my kids and team up as a parent with my kids mother for a better future to our children. In my opinion taking away this program will take away the privilege of parents like me that want to learn to be a better father.

February, 24 2015

Testimony of Shannon Skidgel

Fatherhood Initiative Program

Madonna's place 341 main St

Norwich, CT 06360

The fatherhood program has changed my life as a father.

It has showed me and taught me morales and values (how to set them)

I have taken this program 3 times and I have learned new things

every class. Taking this program away is like giving up on America.

There are more fathers being in their children's life now and it's

because of programs like this one. I have been to other parenting

programs and this by far the best one bar none.

Fathers need this program without it, fathers would not understand

how to be a father the right way if the program is cut.

Fathers need a program were everyone is happy to be here and

have the knowledge that the staff have. There is no place I have

been to that the atmosphere is up beat and everyone wants to be

here. It's fun, exciting, knowledgeable, helpful and compact full

of information in 12 weeks that feels like 3 year of info.

So please keep fathers from falling under.

Testimony of Kevin Allen, Fatherhood Initiative Participant

Fatherhood Initiative program

Madonna Place, INC.

240 Main Street

Jorwich, Ct 06360

My name is Kevin Allen. I have just started at the fatherhood program into my second week. In 2009 I've completed the fatherhood program in Waterbury Ct with Tony Rucker and it ~~have~~ been beneficial to me raising my kids and also a better husband over all. The "24/7 Dad" also made me more aware on what really being a dad is all about, "it's all about the kids". I've been more responsible about the kids needs and less cared about my needs. I have 5 kids, 4 boys and, 1 girl and believe me it's tough raising them, but im dedicated to go through whatever I have to to protect them and to learn more about the to the extreme. Without the Madonna place fatherhood initiative program, I don't know what I would've done or where I'd be to get this proper education on children to make my world better for them. Like a child's cry im asking to please make sure this program stays fully funded.

Thank you for your time

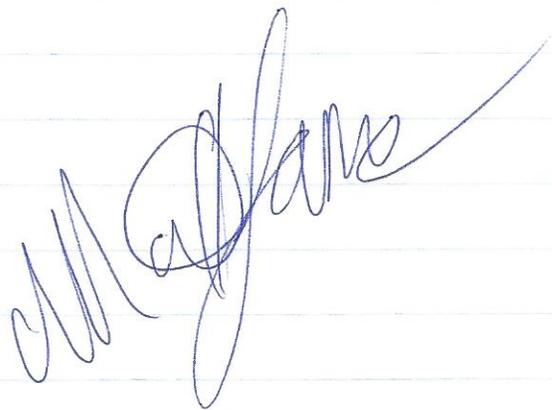
Sincerely yours



2-23-15

Hello,

My name is Matt James and I have been in the fatherhood initiative program for a while now. I have done this class twice because the insight is so helpful. ~~This~~ This class has given me many tools on how to become a better father, and control my emotions which leads to helping control my actions. I would recommend this class to any fathers that need help. These mentors such as Diego, Will and Scott see our side, and see things that some people don't such as police, court etc.... This is a very beneficial program. CT needs a fatherhood program. ~~Money~~ Money should NOT be the main concern here - it should be about giving children a chance to be with their dads and giving fathers a second chance to make their kids lives the best they can be.



My name is Vincent Walkup and I've been involved with the childhood program. I am new to this program and I am looking for a way to balance a new born child along with my two step children, this is a very informative program. I voluntarily put myself into these classes to improve my family relationships. I would like to see this program continue so I may continue learning ways to improve my family dynamic.

Thank you,
V. Walkup
Vincent Walkup

Date 2/23/2015

Hi

Hi My name is Christopher Jones SA
and, I have been working with the fatherhood
Initiative at masonry place in Norwich CT
It was not for fatherhood my son would
have been taking from me. I writing to u
please don't take the Program from us
fathers please I live in Baltic, CT I have
a son that is about 2 years old if was not
for fatherhood me and my wife would
be fight every day. I have a DCJ case
with out fatherhood I could lose my son.

Christopher Jones SA

Date 2/23/2015

my name is Matthew Callin, I have been working with Fatherhood at madonna place. I am writing to you reiterate for the three sources for the Father-hood programming these sources DSS, Fatherhood OLF and OEC if you cut this ~~program~~ program Father's will have no way to help relationships between fathers and their kids. if it wasn't for fatherhood I would never have the relationship with my kids that I have now. This is so stupid that you want to cut something that helps fathers out. This would be really a stupid, to cut something that helps out instead of making the prison population bigger.

2/23/15

My name is Miguel Espitia, and for me and my family Fathers 24/7 Program is been an awesome and Productible Change to our lives and we would like to continue going to this classes because is really helps us out with a lot of problems, so please do not stop this program. and our sources, OEC, DCF and DSS,
~~because~~ to

thank you so much.

Miguel Espitia

To whom this may concern

I Almon R Borgliski Jr am writing this letter for you Dcf, Dss, and fatherhood initiative to keep the funding for the fatherhood program going this class has helped me in so many ways, It has formed my new behavior around my children and helped many others that I can see since my experience in class.

They have helped in court situations, also mainly helped with me understanding how to raise my children. without this class alot of people who do need this class and I believe in my heart this class is needed.



To whom it may concern:

2/22/15

My name is Todd Derlin-Perry and I'm from Waterford. I have been working with Fatherhood Initiative for four months.

In this time I have had access to

I'm Emile A. Lavelle[#] and I have been with the Fatherhood Initiative at Madonna Place in Norwich, Connecticut. I'm writing you in regards of ~~the~~ ^{the Fatherhood Initiative} program. I would ~~really~~ kindly appreciate it to keep the funding for the programs of DSS, DCF, ~~and~~ OEC and the Fatherhood Initiative.

I've been in this class for approximately Eight or Nine weeks and it has taught me an awful lot and changed my thinking of ways at or towards my job to have a much better Relationship with my three Girls that I haven't been able to have anything to do with in over Seven ~~years~~ years. I like many other Fathers whom are in this class or waiting to get in this class to have the opportunity to have a second chance to be the better parent with my kids or theirs. I and many others would really appreciate it for you to continue the funding that is needed to keep such a program open.

Sincerely,

Emile A. Lavelle[#]

2/24/15

Testimony of Tysheik Huff, Father and Participant

Fatherhood Initiative Program

Madonna Place, Inc

240 Main St

Norwich, CT 06360

My name Tysheik Huff and I am currently attending the Fatherhood Initiative program at the Madonna place, Inc in Norwich, CT. I have been attending this program for six weeks and before I started it I didn't think that it had anything to teach me. I was wrong. Since I've been attending this meeting I've learned various ways how to cope and understand my children. I've learned how to identify different situations that use to frustrate me dealing with my kids.

Taking this program away is like giving up on dads who are really trying to be a part of their children's life.